

Message Text

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EXDIS

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SUBJECT:SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL
KAMURAN GURUN, JUNE 27.

1. SECRETARY ASKED SYG TO OUTLINE SITUATION IN CENTO
REGION. LATTER SAID AFGHAN EVENTS HAD CAUSED GREAT CONCERN.
CENTO REGIONAL MEMBERS DO NOT BELIEVE AFGHAN COUP WAS
SIMPLE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT OR REGIME, BUT IN EFFECT
PLACED AFGHANISTAN UNDER ABSOLUTE DOMINATION OF SOVIETS.

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WHICHEVER FACTION WINS IN STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO AFGHAN
COMMUNIST PARTIES -- PARHAM AND KHALQ -- IT WILL BE UNDER
SOVIET INFLUENCE. FLOW OF SOVIET ADVISERS TO AFGHANISTAN,
IN FACT, REPRESENTS ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL COMMISSARS.

2. SYG CONTINUED SAYING ONE CANNOT SPEAK OF AFGHANISTAN
AS A NATION. IT IS RATHER AN AGGREGATION OF DIFFERENT

TRIBES AND ETHNIC GROUPS. THUS, IF SOVIETS CONTROL KABUL, THEY CAN DICTATE THEIR WILL TO ALL AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED THEY DO NOT TRY TO CONTROL TRIBES.

3. IN VIEW OF CENTO REGIONAL COUNTRIES, SYG SAID, BORDERS OF AFGHANISTAN MUST BE CONSIDERED BORDERS OF SOVIET UNION. HE NOTED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAID IN LAHORE THAT PAKISTAN SHOULD LEAVE CENTO AND THAT SAME REMARK HAD BEEN

ATTRIBUTED TO HIGH AFGHAN SOURCE. SYG SAID PAKISTANIS THEMSELVES ARE DEBATING WHETHER OR NOT THEY SHOULD REMAIN IN CENTO BUT THAT CURRENT GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WOULD NOT MAKE DECISION BUT RATHER LEAVE IT TO PERMANENT GOVERNMENT.

4. SYG EMPHASIZED THAT IF CENTO MEANS ANYTHING TO US AND UK, SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO RESPOND TO NEW SITUATION CREATED BY AFGHAN EVENTS. HE SAW TWO AVENUES. FIRST, US MUST HELP REGIONAL COUNTRIES BILATERALLY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR DEFENSE CAPACITY. NOT ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES, NOT EVEN IRAN, IS STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST A SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ATTACK FOR EVEN A FEW DAYS. PAKISTAN'S EQUIPMENT IS OUTDATED. PAKS COMPLAIN THEY CANNOT GET US MILITARY EQUIPMENT BECAUSE OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE. THEY SAY THAT DESPITE THEIR OFFERS TO PROVIDE ANY GUARANTEE ON USE OF REPROCESSING FACILITIES, US DOES NOT CHANGE
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ITS POLICY. PAKS, HE SAID, COULD NOT RENOUNCE DECISION TO ACQUIRE REPROCESSING PLANT. NO PAK GOVERNMENT COULD DO THIS. NATIONAL PRIDE IS INVOLVED. SYG SAID PAKS NOTED IRONY OF US AGREEING TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA WHICH HAS ALREADY EXPLODED NUCLEAR WEAPON WHILE REFUSING TO UNDERSTAND PAKISTAN'S PROBLEM EVEN THOUGH IT IS CENTO ALLY. SYG SECOND RECOMMENDATION WAS SPEEDY COMPLETION OF CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE FOR THE COMBINED MILITARY PLANNING STAFF.

5. IN REPLY, SECRETARY SAID US IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO CENTO'S CENTRAL PURPOSE -- PROTECTION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE CENTO REGIONAL COUNTRIES. WE STAND BY OUR CENTO COMMITMENTS, HE SAID. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD URGED THE PAKISTANIS TO STAY IN THE CENTO ALLIANCE. SECRETARY TOLD SYG HE HAD DISCUSSED NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE WITH PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT AT GREAT LENGTH. HE HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT POLICY FORBIDDING MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID TO COUNTRY RECEIVING NUCLEAR REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY WAS MATTER OF US LAW AND NOT DISCRETION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THE PRESIDENT. HE HAD TOLD PAKISTANIS THAT IF REPROCESSING PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED, US IS READY TO OPEN

UP SUPPLY LINE INCLUDING MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

6. SECRETARY TOLD SYG THAT UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM WOULD BE VISITING CENTO REGION IN JULY TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS AND SECURITY SITUATION IN LIGHT OF AFGHAN EVENTS. NEWSOM WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MILITARY SUPPLY SITUATION WITH PAKISTANIS, BUT THEY MUST REALIZE THAT US LAW ON REPROCESSING WILL NOT BE CHANGED.

7. AS TO STRENGTHENING OF OTHER MEMBERS OF CENTO ALLIANCE,

SECRETARY CONTINUED WE ARE MAKING ALL OUT EFFORT TO GET EMBARGO ON MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY LIFTED. US WOULD ALSO COOPERATE TO COMPLETE CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE
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TO MILITARY PLANNING STAFF AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. SECRETARY ALSO INFORMED SYG OF US DECISION TO SEEK LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN UPGRADING OF CENTO HIGH FREQUENCY MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM ON SHARED BASIS WITH OTHER MEMBERS. US WOULD ALSO STEP UP INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE ON SECURITY OF CENTO REGION THROUGH COUNTER SUBVERSION OFFICE (SEPTTEL).

8. GURUN NOTED THAT IF PAKISTAN FEELS OBLIGED TO QUIT CENTO, RESULT WOULD BE BAD FOR THE WEST. IF PAKISTAN CAME UNDER SOVIET DOMINATION, INDIAN OCEAN SHIPPING LANES WOULD BE THREATENED. GURUN SAID THEN PAKISTAN MIGHT HAVE ITS REPROCESSING PLANT AND MANY OTHER ITEMS IT SEEKS IN VAIN FROM ITS FRIENDS. SECRETARY REPEATED THAT US LAW ON REPROCESSING ISSUE IS CLEAR. SYG SAID THEN PERHAPS WE MUST PLAN NOW TO LOSE PAKISTAN. SECRETARY SAID THERE ARE OTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR MEETING PAKISTAN'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS BESIDES US. FRENCH MIGHT PROVIDE EQUIPMENT IF REGIONAL COUNTRIES COULD BE INVOLVED IN FINANCING. GURUN SAID THIS IS POSSIBLE SOLUTION.

9. AT SECRETARY'S INVITATION, COUNSELOR NIMITZ EMPHASIZED US WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSAL FOR INCREASED CENTO ACTIVITY OR PROJECTS SO LONG AS THEY ARE ON A SHARED BASIS. SECRETARY ENDORSED THIS POSITION AND CONCLUDED MEETING SAYING US WANTS TO DO ITS PART TO STRENGTHEN THE ALLIANCE. THIS IS TIME WHEN CENTO OUGHT TO BE STRONG.

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